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LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I hereby have the honour to transmit the text of a statement by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan A. Nazarbaev, of 24 February 1998 on the results of your mission to Baghdad (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the President of Kazakhstan of 24 February 1998

Kazakhstan welcomes the outcome of the mission of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Baghdad. Thanks to the diplomatic skills of the head of the world Organization and the good will demonstrated by the Iraqi leadership, it has been possible to defuse the conflict relating to Iraq and to prevent the start of military actions. An important agreement has been reached to move the negotiation process on Iraq to the Security Council.

From the very beginning, it has been our position that political means must be found of resolving the conflict situation in order to avoid military actions that would have inflicted new sufferings on the people of Iraq. We have stressed the special role of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of the existing situation, calling for strict compliance by the Iraqi leadership with the resolutions of the Security Council. Kazakhstan firmly believes that the Security Council alone has the authority to take decisions on the use of force against any State.

We express the hope that the forthcoming discussions in the Security Council will provide an opportunity to make an objective assessment of the situation in and around Iraq and to take an appropriate decision in the interests of the world community as a whole.